

A Waiver of Arraignment and Plea of Not Guilty as authorized by Rule 10(b), *Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure*, is not effective if filed electronically and will not excuse a defendant or counsel from appearing if notified to appear for arraignment. A waiver under Rule 10(b)(2) is not effective until accepted and approved by the court (Rule 10(b)(3)). A document styled as a Waiver is a legal nullity unless and until accepted by the court. The only circumstance under which a written Waiver of Arraignment and Plea of Not Guilty has been accepted by the court has involved a superseding indictment in which there has been no substantive change to the charge made against a waiving defendant. The Waiver of Arraignment and Plea of Not Guilty must be on a paper form provided directly to counsel by a judge of this court, and signed by both counsel and the defendant. The Waiver of Arraignment and Plea of Not Guilty is to be returned directly to the chambers of the judge providing the form, not filed with the clerk of the court. **The waiver is valid only upon its acceptance by the court as certified by the judge's signature on the same form which contains the original signatures of both the defendant and defendant's counsel.** No other method of waiver of arraignment and plea of not guilty pursuant to Rule 10 has been or will be accepted by United States District Court for the Northern District of Alabama without special order.